

Application No. 09/755,204
Applicants: Xiangzhong Yang and Chikara Kubota

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-95 are canceled. Claims 96-108 have been added.

Support for claims 96-108.

Claims 96-108 do not contain new matter and are fully supported in the application as filed. Written description for 14, 20 and 30 doublings in passaging the cells (see claim 97) corresponding to 7, 10 and 15 passages is found on page 14, lines 27 bridging over to page 15 at lines 1-2 in the specification.

Applicants submit that the finding of a surprising pregnancy rate in the female bovines after 10 cell passages (Table 4) is supported in the data. As set forth in the table on page 39, there is an unexpected difference on passaging at 10 passages where higher pregnancy and calving rates are observed from embryos derived from cells at passage 10 than from those at passage 15 (at passage 10 64% pregnancy and 29% calving; and at passage 15, 25% pregnancy and 17% calving.) See page 39, lines 16-18 and Table 4. This is unexpected because where a high pregnancy rate of 64% was unexpectedly achieved at 10 passages, the lower rates at 15 passages emphasize that the significantly higher results at 10 passages were an unexpected finding.

CONCLUSION

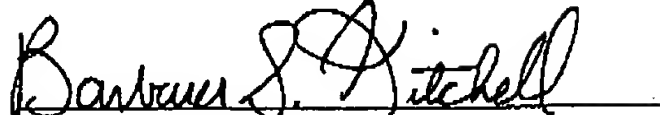
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a telephone conference with the Examiner should any issues remain.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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